

FirstNet

DECEMBER 2018

FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY

Transforming the future of public communications for first responders.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

One of the first in the nation and first in the state of Maryland to subscribe to FirstNet



Washington County

M A R Y L A N D



Future of Public Safety



Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford

"During time of crisis, communication is key. Our administration is committed to working with our first responders at all levels--local, state and federal--to ensure we are able to stay connected. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this public-private partnership to innovate our public safety operations and keep our communities safe."



**Washington County Sheriff
Doug Mullendore**

"When disaster hit, we relied on FirstNet to keep us connected. We even called in a Satellite Cell on Light Truck (SatCOLT), boosting our ability to communicate and coordinate our emergency response beyond the low bandwidth Wi-Fi some of our personnel were using. We are pleased that Gov. Hogan approved the FirstNet state plan, opening the door for us to take advantage of this dedicated network platform to better serve Washington County, especially when our community needed it most."



**Executive Director of Public Safety
Advocacy, FirstNet Authority
David Buchanan**

"As we planned for this network platform, we worked hand-in-hand with public safety and state officials here in Maryland to design FirstNet to meet their needs. Now, one year after Maryland approved of the FirstNet plan, we are honored to be supporting the state's public safety community, including Sheriff Mullendore and his deputies, as they serve and protect their communities."

First to subscribe in the state of Maryland.



In May 2018, Washington County was impacted by significant flooding in the southern part of the county. With low bandwidth Wi-Fi and the location of the command post nestled in a valley between two mountains, communication and data transfer served as a great challenge. Washington County Sheriff Doug Mullendore coordinated with FirstNet to keep emergency responders connected by calling in the Satellite Cell on Light Truck (SatCOLT). FEMA, MEMA, local emergency responders, and county employees all utilized the connection offered by FirstNet.

FirstNet



**President, AT&T in Maryland
Denis Dunn**

"Thanks to great collaboration with many of the leaders across the state and locally – like here in Washington County – we're moving quickly to build out the network and sign on new public safety agencies. FirstNet was designed by and for our first responders, and we're working hard every day to meet our mission – which is helping public safety achieve theirs."



**Director, Washington County
Division of Emergency Services
David Hays**

"Upon arriving in South County, it was evident we were dealing with a large scale disaster. We were deploying many resources into an area with limited communications beyond our public safety radio system. In conversation with Sheriff Mullendore, we realized a new tool was available that could change our response portfolio. A call was made to activate FirstNet SatCOLT and when the unit arrived on location, communications instantly improved. We were able to coordinate with the many resources that were operating in the hazard zones."



**Executive Director, Maryland
Emergency Management Agency
Russ Strickland**

"Preparedness is a shared responsibility, and coordination and communication among jurisdictions, the State, and the public at large is paramount. In a time when we can expect more extreme events, including more flooding, it is imperative that our collaborative approach be comprehensive, inclusive, and nimble. It is only together that we, as Maryland residents, will help shape a resilient Maryland where communities thrive."

First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) was created in response to the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. FirstNet serves as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to provide emergency responders with the first nationwide, high-speed, broadband network dedicated to public safety. The communications platform is being built with AT&T as a public-private partnership to provide a technology upgrade for public safety.

Maryland was the first state in the nation to initiate their public safety state consultation in 2014. Three years later in 2017, Maryland was again the first state to have a meeting

with Governor Hogan's staff and establish a Maryland state plan. Washington County Sheriff Doug Mullendore was part of the team that worked with the state of Maryland to put together this plan. One year after Governor Hogan approved the build out of FirstNet by AT&T, Washington County has already put it to use.

When the southern part of Washington County received over 9 inches of rain over the span of a few hours in the spring of 2018, there were several roads and bridges that completely washed away. During this time, a State of Emergency had been declared. Sheriff Mullendore and the Division of Emergency Services activated and setup a command post at Potomac

Valley Fire Company, which is located in a low valley area that caused great difficulty in connecting with wireless communication and receiving practically no data. Sheriff made a call to FirstNet and within 24 hours, the SatCOLT had arrived in the valley of southern Washington County all the way from Atlanta, Georgia. The device was setup within 30 minutes, leading to seamless communication and data collection.

With many rural and mountainous areas in Washington County, land-mobile radio is not effective. FirstNet is an excellent and effective technology for emergency responders to access. Washington County is proud to be at the forefront of modernizing public safety communication.



Washington County
M A R Y L A N D